

RELEASE IN PART
EXEMPTIONS: (b)(1)
(b)(3)
DATE: JUL 2001

OUTGOING MESSAGE

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY
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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~

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PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

0 INDEX DISSEM BY:
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0 RETURN TO [REDACTED]
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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF 104-74.4

22. //MEXICO: A JOINT MILITARY OPERATION AGAINST MEXICAN GUERRILLA LEADER LUCIO CABANAS HAS SO FAR BEEN UNPRODUCTIVE. THE ACTION, INVOLVING ABOUT 2,000 TROOPS, WAS LAUNCHED ON JUNE 26 IN AN EFFORT TO KILL CABANAS AND RESCUE SENATOR FIGUEROA, THE GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE WHO WAS KIDNAPED WITH FOUR ASSISTANTS ON MAY 30.//4

//MEXICAN NAVAL VESSELS ARE PATROLLING OFFSHORE AND MARINES HAVE JOINED ARMY PATROLS IN CORDONING OFF THE AREA WHERE CABANAS IS BELIEVED TO BE HIDING. ON JULY 2, ARMY TROOPS DISCOVERED AN ABANDONED CAMP BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED BY CABANAS, BUT HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE GROUP.//4

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CLAIM TO HAVE LITTLE HOPE THE ARMY WILL FIND EITHER FIGUEROA, WHO THEY BELIEVE HAS ALREADY BEEN KILLED BY CABANAS, OR CABANAS HIMSELF. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA REPORTEDLY IS CONSIDERING POSTING MILITARY UNITS INVOLVED IN THE CURRENT OPERATION TO GUERRERO STATE ON A PERMANENT BASIS TO KEEP PRESSURE ON CABANAS, BUT FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS MAY NOT ALLOW IT.

